



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHOR DAVID HELVARG *The Golden Shore* -- Book Talk and Signing**

**Santa Barbara, CA – February 7, 2013**

David Helvarg has spent much of his life working for ocean and coastal conservation, and he has a specific interest in and affection for the California coast. His new book, *The Golden Shore: California's Love Affair with the Sea*, is his passionate tale of one of the most stunning human and natural habitats to be found anywhere on earth, the 1,100 miles of the California coast.

The Santa Barbara Public Library System will host Helvarg on Friday, March 1, when he will give a free presentation and public talk about his new book at 6:00 p.m. in the Faulkner Gallery of the Central Library, at 40 E. Anapamu St. The author will be introduced by Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society. Copies of his book, which will be released February 19, will be available for sale and signing after the presentation.

Tracing the California coastline back to its earliest Paleo-Indian settlers, Helvarg looks at the growth and changing nature of this rapidly changing maritime frontier. From its first people through the millions that have come to its shores to today's population of over 37 million, Helvarg shows how and why the most populous state in the nation is also the best steward of a wild and living ocean.

Helvarg details what California's coast means to the economy, the ecology, sciences, lifestyles, enterprises and future of the state, the nation and our blue world. His study of the California coast and ocean covers:

- How Jack London brought surfing to California and how surfing and ocean recreation have become major political and economic forces in the state.
- How the Navy has helped define the state and its bases, ships and offshore training ranges continue to be a major force in its economy and national security
- How California has become a leader in marine science discoveries and exploration that are redefining how we understand our world, ocean and climate
- How America's largest ports are also leading a global greening ports movement.
- How an oil disaster off the shore of Santa Barbara in 1969 resulted in the best system of late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century coastal protection in the world.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Barbara Library, who will provide light refreshments. The Friends of the Santa Barbara Library are a non-profit organization who financially support library programs, materials, services, and advocate for the library. Anyone interested in finding out more information about the organization can visit them online at [www.sbplibrary.org](http://www.sbplibrary.org).

All Library programs are FREE and open to the public. For information about programs and services of the Santa Barbara Public Library System, visit the web site at [SBPLibrary.org](http://SBPLibrary.org).

### **David Helvarg**

Helvarg is founder and Executive Director of the Blue Ocean Campaign, a Washington DC based organization working for ocean and coastal conservation. An award-winning journalist, he has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Popular Science*, *Sierra*, and *Parade*, and has produced more than forty documentaries for PBS, the Discovery Channel, and others. His previous books include *Rescue Warriors* and *Saved by the Sea: A Love Story with Fish*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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**A 4-minute video preview of Helvarg's talk may be viewed [here](#) on youtube ("The Golden Shore - a book by BFC Executive Director David Helvarg")**

Praise for the works for David Helvarg

*"Ever since the publication of his wave-making book Blue Frontier in 2001, David Helvarg has become the premier chronicler of America's complex relationship with our oceans and coasts, our last frontier."*

*-Honolulu Weekly*

*"Helvarg draws upon his unique experiences and background as an environmental journalist and documentary filmmaker, and writes in a clear and vivid style. He expands the reader's awareness, hope and concern for the ocean environment."*

*-San Francisco Chronicle*

*"Helvarg writes with humor, compassion, concern and a keen eye for fascinating detail."*

*-Dr. Paul Ehrlich, author of The Population Bomb*

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